

Hinds County News

A Monthly Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 10 Hinds County, Mississippi FEBRUARY 2025

Kaedyn Wilson Signs With Blue Mountain XC



Kaedyn Wilson had a record-setting running career for the Clinton High School Cross-Country team and Track and Field team. Now, she is able to continue that career and pursue collegiate-level distance running.

Wilson signed her national letter of intent to run for Blue Mountain Christian University in the Clinton High School Media Center. She was joined by teammates, friends, family, and coaches as she made her collegiate decision official.

"She is a determined young lady who is always looking for ways to improve," Head Girls' Cross Country Coach Allen Marett said of Wilson when she received the October Athlete of the Month Award. "Along with the other seniors, she has given her best for six years to the (cross-country) team."

Hinds Community College Recognized Grads From the 50's

Hinds Community College recently recognized high school and college graduates from the 1960s decade at its annual 50+ reunion held as part of Homecoming week festivities.



Pictured (L to R): 1950s graduates Douglas Moore (1954) of Jackson, Sarah McElvoy Lancaster (1957) of Clinton, Margarita Morris Stanford (1958) of Clinton, Martha Gillespie Ferguson (1956) of Raymond, Bill Ferguson (1959) of Learned, Ron Melancon (1959) of Picayune and Charles Stuart Spann (1956) of Raymond.

Hinds Cheer Team Wins National Championship



The Hinds Cheer team won the National Championship in open small COED Game Day at the 2025 UCA Nationals at Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, FL. Congratulations to Head Coach Kadin Adcox and the 2024-25 Hinds Cheer team!



Sen. David Blount: Legislative Session Underway

House Republicans Focus On Eliminating Income Tax; Raising Sales And Gas Taxes



Senator David Blount

The legislative session stated on January 7th. The first bill introduced in the House of Representatives would abolish the state income tax. It would also raise the sales tax and the gas tax. The bill has passed the House and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

This is a bad bill that will cripple the state budget for years and create a more unequitable tax structure for Mississippians. First, let's point out that the income tax pays for one-third of the overall general fund budget: More than \$2 billion a year. Even with their tax increases, the House bill will require more than \$1 billion a year in budget cuts in today's dollars.

Secondly, our state's economy has seen an unprecedented one-time windfall of federal money in recent years. This was during COVID and the Biden administration. This federal money is just about all spent. Mississippi will soon be back where we've always been, having to do more with less. In fact, state revenues today are down almost three percent from where they were last year and down in states across the country.

These reckless tax cut proposals are irresponsible. In Jackson, Democrats and Republicans balance the budget. This isn't Washington DC where Congress cuts taxes and increases spending. Those proposing tax cuts will not show what programs they would cut to balance the budget.

In fact, the Republican proposal to eliminate the income tax calls for RAISING the sales and gas tax. If you're lower income or middle class, retired, or live in a rural area that could mean you see a tax INCREASE and fewer services. You could also see property taxes go up.

I received this email from a constituent in the Terry area:

"I see a lot of fuzzy math. As a retiree, we currently don't pay state income tax on earned income as you know. It looks like some of these proposals to offset an income reduction with an added gas tax to support highways and bridges; and add additional sales taxes either at state and/or local levels to further cover income tax cuts ultimately become a tax increase for seniors and retirees. Any way I add this up, looks like retirees, seniors are getting an overall tax increase, period! Can you explain how a retiree is having an overall tax reduction in this fuzzy math agenda trying to sell us retirees that we will get a tax cut?"

I agree with this analysis. The Mississippi Economic Council, the state's leading business organization, recently listed its top legislative priorities as set by Mississippi businesses. They did not even mention a tax cut. They said Mississippi needs to focus on workforce training at our community colleges and high schools, greater access to health care, and K-12 education. Democrats agree. Democrats call on Republicans to support these proposals.

The tax cut bill is likely the most important bill we will consider this session but there are hundreds more. Please reach out to me on any issue that is important to you.

As the session gets underway, I ask for your prayers and help. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the people of Hinds County. If I can help you or your family, please contact me by email (dblount@senate.ms.gov) or by calling my office at the Capitol (601-359-2220). I am also on Facebook and Twitter (@sendavidblount).

Hinds County News

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Hinds County News

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A Letter From The Mayor Of Byram

Dear Citizens of Byram,

As we embrace February, the month of love, I'm reminded of how much I love serving this remarkable community and the incredible spirit that makes Byram such a special place to call home.

I'm excited to announce that Byram is again participating in Extra Table's March of the Mayors! This vital statewide food collection drive provides thousands of food boxes for needy local families. This year, our city has been tasked with collecting 1,500 one-pound bags of rice. You can drop off your donations at Vowell's Marketplace between now and February 21st. Every bag of rice contributed will help feed a local family, showing that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our community.

Speaking of making a difference, I'd like to remind everyone about some important upcoming dates. The Byram General Election will be held on June 3rd, 2025, with Primaries on April 1st. Please ensure you're registered to vote by **March 1st**. Your voice matters in shaping our city's future!

I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas about our community's future. Join me for a Coffee Talk on **February 4th** at Cadence Bank (5767 Terry Rd) from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Let's share coffee and have a conversation about our vision for Byram. Your input is invaluable as we work together to improve our city.

As always, if you need assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact our dedicated City Hall staff at 601-372-7746. We're here to serve you.

It remains one of my greatest honors to serve as your Mayor. I'm deeply committed to working alongside you to ensure Byram continues to be a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

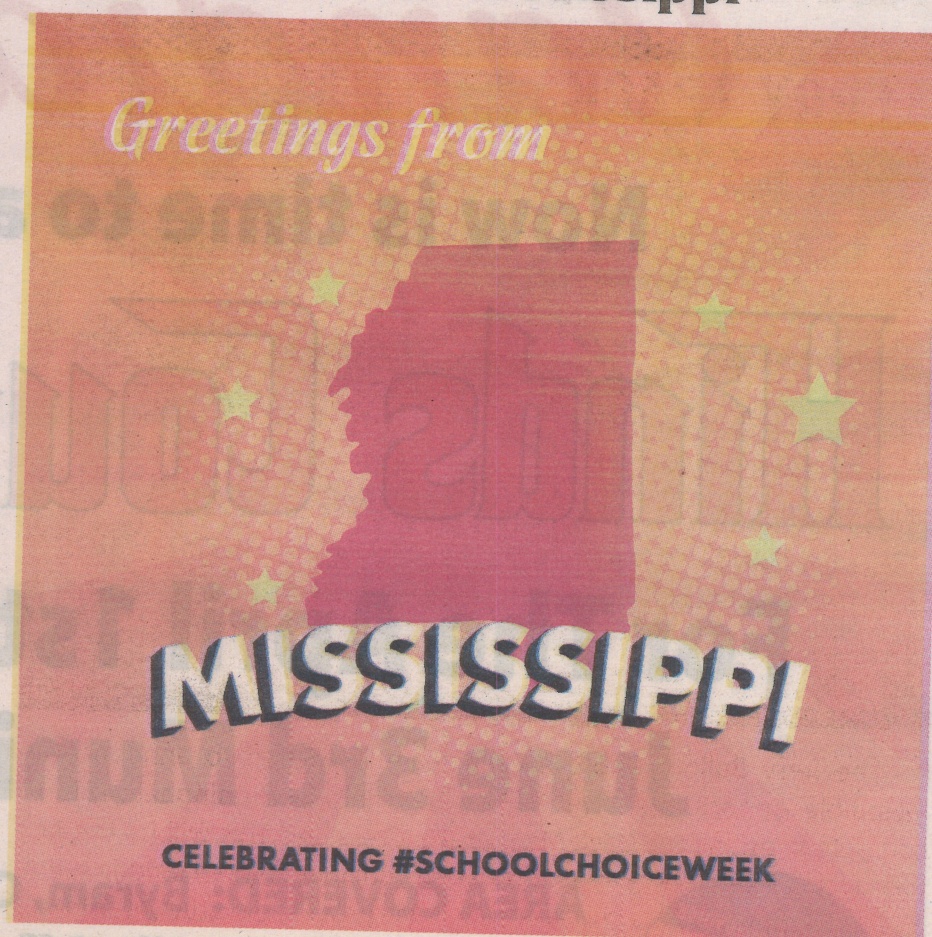
Together, we can make our community more substantial and vibrant.

Your Mayor,
Richard White



Mayor Richard White

Governor Reeves Proclaims School Choice Week In Mississippi



Governor Tate Reeves declared January 26 through February 1, 2025, as Mississippi School Choice Week! This proclamation demonstrates a commitment to ensuring every Mississippi student has access to an array of diverse educational opportunities, and we are grateful for the Governor's leadership on this important issue.

Mississippi School Choice Week highlighted many educational options available across the state, including public schools, charter schools, private schools, virtual learning, and homeschooling, emphasizing the vital role of parental choice in shaping students' futures.



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CITY OF BYRAM FEBRUARY DATES

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point for the 2025 March of the
Mayors Food Drive

Tuesday, February 4th

Coffee Talk with Mayor White,
9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at
Cadence Bank, 5767 Terry Road

Monday, February 10th

Regularly Scheduled Work Session
of the Mayor and Board of
Aldermen, 6:30 p.m. at
City Hall

Thursday, February 13th

Regularly Scheduled Meeting
of the Mayor and Board of
Aldermen, 7:00 p.m. at
City Hall

Monday, February 17th

City Administrative Offices
will be closed in observance of
Presidents' Day

Thursday, February 27th

Regularly Scheduled Meeting
of the Mayor and Board of
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The Terry Bulldog Track & Field team is excited to announce an incredible opportunity—we will be traveling to Birmingham, AL, to compete in an Indoor Track Meet at the CrossPlex! This will be the first time in a decade that our program has participated in an indoor event, and we're thrilled about the exposure it will provide our student-athletes.

Indoor track competitions are vital for college recruitment, as many collegiate programs use both indoor and outdoor performances to evaluate potential recruits. This meet will allow our athletes to gain valuable indoor track times and compete on a larger stage, showcasing their talents to college coaches. We believe this experience will open doors for their future college opportunities.

To make this trip possible, we need your help. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 to cover the cost of a charter bus for this overnight journey to Birmingham. Your generous donation to our booster club, Run by Faith, will ensure our athletes have the chance to participate in this important event.

We deeply appreciate your consideration and support as we continue to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to excel and reach their full potential.



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MUNICIPAL COURT
4th Monday of each month
6:00 pm

CHS Art Student Makayla Speed Wins Silver Key Award



CLINTON — Clinton Senior Makayla Speed recently received the Silver Key Award in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition for her painting "Heaven Waits For Me."

Makayla said the recent loss of family members as well as her faith served as inspiration for her painting.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards started in 1923. Silver Key Awards are granted to artists who place in the top 10% of submissions within the artists' region.

Winners of awards over the past century include names like Robert Redford, Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, John Updike and Lena Dunham.

SAVE THE DATE



**TEACHER FAIR
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- ☐ Jeff Bezos
- ☐ Bill Clinton
- ☐ Paris Hilton
- ☐ Winston Churchill

New Year, Renewed Commitment: Defending Mississippi's Future For All



Mississippi Senator Rod Hickman
Op-Ed

As the 2025 Mississippi Legislative Session kicks off, it's clear that Mississippi faces both significant opportunities and critical challenges. While there is no shortage of ideas being put forward, we must be cautious about proposals that threaten to divert resources away from those who need them most to benefit the few. This session, my focus is unwavering: to continue our fight for strong, thriving communities and a Mississippi where everyone has a fair chance to succeed. The work to ensure our families and communities are properly supported is more urgent than ever.

However, there are two proposals this legislative session that risk setting Mississippi back, and one of the most concerning is the push to eliminate the

state income tax. Last week, Rep. Trey Lamar introduced House Bill 1, the "Build Up Mississippi Act," a broad tax plan aimed at eliminating the state income tax. This plan raises serious concerns, starting with its cost. HB1 would drain over \$1 billion annually from the state budget, on top of the \$535 million already lost due to the 2022 tax cuts. These funds are essential for supporting critical public services like education, healthcare, transportation, and infrastructure. In a state where nearly 20% of residents live in poverty, losing this revenue is indefensible. That money could instead be invested in rural hospitals, housing, workforce development, and services that lift families out of poverty, strengthen communities, and provide better opportunities to our children.

To make matters worse, HB1 shifts the responsibility for funding the state budget from wealthy Mississippians—who contribute more through income taxes—to low- and middle-income families through higher sales taxes. Sales taxes disproportionately impact these families because they spend a larger share of their income on essentials like food, clothing, and household goods. This creates a regressive system that burdens those with the least resources, leaving them with less money for basic needs, while wealthier families feel little impact and save more.

Eliminating the income tax also fails to deliver on its promises of economic growth. States that have eliminated income taxes have not seen the economic booms or business growth supporters claim. Mississippi risks shifting the burden of funding government services onto those who can least afford it, possibly leading to budget shortfalls and reduced spending on vital public services like education. This is not what Mississippi families want.

They want safe, healthy communities, quality schools, opportunities for workforce development, and access to good healthcare. Fighting against income tax elimination will be one of my top priorities, but just as important is fighting for the investments and services that Mississippians truly need to thrive.

The push to expand school voucher programs also represents a step backward for Mississippi. Voucher programs divert essential public funds from public schools to private institutions, deepening disparities in access and opportunity. Universal voucher programs are created under the promise of "school choice," which is misleading for most families. Private schools are often nonexistent in rural areas, and many families cannot afford the time or resources to transport their children to distant schools. Furthermore, private schools are not held to the same standards as public schools. They are not required to meet the hiring standards for educators, adhere to Every Student Succeeds Act, or comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, leaving students—especially those with disabilities—behind. In addition, in states with voucher programs, most students were already attending private schools or homeschooling before receiving vouchers, leaving many undeserved. There is also no evidence that vouchers improve student achievement. In fact, evidence shows that vouchers decrease, rather than improve, student academic achievement. Additionally, voucher costs often exceed projections, further draining funds from other essential state needs.

Even so, the fact remains that 90% of Mississippi's children attend public schools, making it imperative that these schools are fully supported. Rather than undermining public education, the state should focus on strengthening it. This includes ensuring that the Mississippi School Funding Formula is fully funded, continuing to invest in increasing teacher salaries and professional development to address the teacher shortage, improving school infrastructure, expanding access to early childhood education, and implementing mental health and wellness programs for students. These investments will ensure that every child, regardless of background or location, has access to a high-quality education. Supporting public schools is not just an investment in students—it is an investment in the future of Mississippi, driving economic growth, reducing poverty, and creating opportunities for all.

The stakes for Mississippi's future are high this legislative session. Proposals like eliminating the state income tax and expanding voucher programs threaten vital public services and deepen existing disparities. These policies would divert resources away from essential needs—such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure—to benefit the few while placing greater responsibility on low- and middle-income families.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive. We don't have to choose between groups. To build a Mississippi that works for all, we must create a Mississippi that works for everyone. This includes investing in educational opportunities for all, improving access to affordable healthcare for all, building good roads and bridges for everyone, and expanding economic opportunities for everyone. I remain committed to protecting the progress we've made and advocating for policies that support working families and uplift communities. Together, we can build a brighter future for every Mississippian.

Extension Instructor Receives Nutritionist Of The Year Award

By Susan Collins-Smith
MSU Extension Service

RAYMOND, Miss. -- An instructor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service was recently recognized by the Mississippi Public Health Association for her commitment to helping Mississippians live healthier lifestyles.

Qula Madkin, a dietitian nutritionist in the MSU Department of Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, was awarded the Vonda A. Webb Nutritionist of the Year Award at the association's fall conference.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award, but my work has always been about serving the people," Madkin said. "It's incredibly rewarding to know that my health, nutrition, wellness and advocacy efforts are recognized and appreciated, especially by those I am privileged to serve."

First presented in 1979, the award was established in honor of Vonda A. Webb, a former nutrition services director with the Mississippi State Department of Health, to recognize outstanding achievements in public health nutrition.

Madkin directs Extension's statewide nutrition programs and assists with developing, coordinating and distributing program materials related to nutrition and food safety. She also provides training and technical assistance to all Extension agents with nutrition education responsibilities.

She is a regular contributor to the MSU Extension Service's Extension for Real Life Blog, published by MSU Extension. She also maintains various social media platforms, engaging a broader audience and increasing awareness of the MSU Extension Nutrition and Wellness Program. She has been instrumental in implementing the Dining with Diabetes program in Mississippi, helping patients, caregivers and others manage diabetes with healthy lifestyle habits. Her office is located at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond.

Madkin serves as a mentor to students in MSU's nutrition and dietetics programs and works to introduce high school students to the profession. She is an active member of the Mississippi Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and regularly presents at conferences and meetings focused on the field.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nutrition from MSU and has more than 21 years of experience working with health, wellness promotion and nutrition coordination in community, private and academic settings. She is a registered and licensed dietitian and a certified diabetes care and education specialist. She also completed training in the Commission on Dietetic Registration's Adult Weight Management Program.

She is currently pursuing a doctorate in functional foods and nutrition.

The MPHA is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association and is made up of a variety of public health advocates and professionals, including nurses, social workers, emergency responders, researchers and nutritionists.

MPHA provides leadership, advocacy and education to its members to improve public and personal health in the state. For more information about the organization, visit <https://www.mspha.org>.



Qula Madkin

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Local 4-Hers Advance To Second Phase Of Junior Livestock Shows

4-H livestock exhibitors dial up their competitive drive as they advance to the second phase of livestock competitions held in the five districts across the state. Hinds County 4-H members competed in the Southwest District Livestock Show held on the fairgrounds in Jackson January 15-17th, 2025.

In the showmanship competition, it is not the animal for which the judge is focused upon, but rather the handler of the animal. The youth who can bring out the greatest attributes in their animal while moving effortlessly in and around the show ring, will find themselves at the top of their class.



Pictured (L to R): Madison, Jordan Claire Vickers, Hog Judge: Eli Elliott, Andy, Hannah Vickers and in front, Ty Vickers-Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog.

The barn was filled with a rush of excitement as the swine show got underway. Hinds County exhibitors who placed in the Top Five in the breed divisions include: Spencer/Garrett Bridgers in the Commercial Gilt Division, Spencer/Garrett Bridgers in the MS Barrow Division, Jordan Claire/Madison Vickers in the Other Breeds Division, Dalton Barnes as well as the Bridgers Brothers in the Hampshire Division, Spencer/Garrett Bridgers in the York Division, Jordan Claire/Madison Vickers in the Spot Division, Madison Brown and Taylor Pinkston in the Chester Division, Case Stubblefield and Jacob Alford in the Hereford division, Taylor Pinkston and the Vickers' sisters in the Duroc division, and Spencer/Garrett Bridgers in the Crossbred division. At the end of the show, Spencer and Garrett Bridgers were named Champion Down Ear Division Commercial Gilt as well as Reserve Champion MS Bred Barrow. Jordan Claire and Madison Vickers were honored with Champion Duroc as well as Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog.



Pictured (L to R): Jimmy Washburn, Sadie Washburn Grand Champion Market Steer.

Hinds County 4H members who placed in the Top 10 of their classes in the Steer Show included: James/Robert Farr, the Bridgers Brothers, Paisley Woods and Sadie/Jimmy Washburn in the English Division, and Spencer/Garrett Bridgers and Jimmy/Sadie Washburn in the European Division. Jimmy and Sadie's English Steer was named Champion along with their European steer being named Champion Heavyweight European Steer. At the end of the day, it was Jimmy's English Steer that was named Grand Champion while Sadie's European Steer was named Reserve Grand Champion.

The final phase of these young 4-Her's journey with their animal projects is the Dixie National Roundup at the Fairground in Jackson January 27-February 6th, which will showcase young exhibitors throughout the entire state competing to earn honors in market and breeding divisions in a host of species including lambs, hogs, goats, and beef.

CPSD Increases District Stipend For National Board Certified Educators



Sumner Hill math teacher Dr. Kelly Keith is a National Board Certified Teacher and serves as a district mentor to other teachers seeking a National Board Certification.

CLINTON — The Clinton Public School District's Board of Trustees recently enacted a measure to increase the supplement given to educators who are National Board Certified.

In alignment with the district's strategic plan's goal of recruiting and retaining top-tier educators, the CPSD Board of Trustees approved an increase to the National Board Certified Teacher supplement by 50%, adding an additional \$3,000 to the existing annual supplement of \$6,000.

The new annual NBCT supplement of \$9,000 will go into effect during the 2025-2026 school year.

CPSD Superintendent Dr. Andy Schoggin said the board's decision is reflective of the district's belief that investing in highly qualified educators directly enhances student outcomes and strengthens schools.

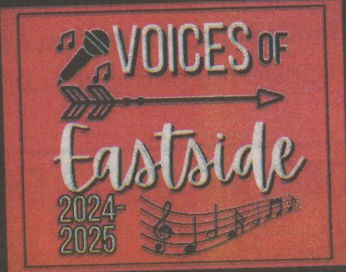
"By maintaining low administrative costs, we ensure that our financial resources are strategically allocated where they matter most—our classrooms and school-level educators," Dr. Schoggin said. "This increase underscores our dedication to recruiting, retaining and rewarding exceptional professionals who make a difference in the lives of our students every day."

CPSD currently has 61 National Board Certified Teachers across the district.

The Clinton Public School District recently organized an in-district NBCT mentor group consisting of Clinton teachers whose mission it is to assist other teachers, counselors, speech-language pathologists and other educators looking to become National Board Certified educators.

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students and schools. More than 137,000 teachers have been named as NBCT across the county.

A Night of Voices
featuring the choirs of
Eastside and Northside
Elementary Schools



Thursday, February 20
6:30pm
Northside/Eastside Cafeteria

Free admission.

MC Students Explain How MC Impacted Their Spiritual Journey At Education Commission Meeting



Layton Levingston and Taylor Phillips told Education Commission members how Mississippi College has helped prepare them for careers in ministry.

A pair of Mississippi College students passionate about using their God-given skills to help others develop and strengthen their relationship with Christ shared their testimonies with members of the Education Commission on Jan. 24 and explained how MC has helped set them on a path to achieve their long-term ministerial goals.

Upon graduation this year, Taylor Phillips and Layton Levingston, both seniors from Brandon, plan to enter a ministry residency program at their respective home churches and serve the Lord by helping spread the Gospel of Christ. Both are transfer students who received the Leland Speed Scholarship, which enabled them to complete their undergraduate studies at Mississippi College.

The Speed Scholarship program provides full tuition for all admitted high school and undergraduate transfer students who are residents of Mississippi.

The Commission, comprised of high-ranking leaders of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and presidents and administrators of Blue Mountain Christian University, MC and William Carey University, met in Anderson Hall in the B.C. Rogers Student Center on the Clinton campus.

The group cultivates the interests of Mississippi Baptists on behalf of Christian higher education, strengthens the colleges of Mississippi Baptists and unifies their efforts in the Convention program of Christian higher education, and makes recommendations through the Convention Board to the Convention concerning all cooperative efforts on the field of Christian higher education, among other responsibilities.

Phillips, a sports ministry major, said it was an honor to be selected to give her testimony to the group.

"It means that I have made an impact in my area of study and to the professors who I have had the privilege of learning from," she said. "It means that others see Christ in me and see how I walk with Him daily."

From an early age, Phillips had decided to become a pediatrician, but a test she took in high school pointed her toward a career in occupational therapy. A soccer player, she received offers to play the sport in college and chose to attend Copiah Lincoln Community College in Wesson and major in kinesiology.

Phillips discovered that Co-Lin was not for her, so after a semester, she transferred to Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, where she

met her fiancé. Now closer to home, she interned at Pinelake Church, where a counselor's message helped her see that success means something other than just making a healthy living. She had always secretly felt a call to ministry, so during an anatomy and physiology class at Holmes, she began scrolling the kinesiology pages on Mississippi College's website and discovered a section on sports ministry.

"That A&P class is where every internal and external struggle, every awful experience at Co-Lin, and every day that I questioned my future at Holmes all fell into place," Phillips said. "So many prayers were answered and decisions were made right there in that classroom."

"In sports ministry at MC, I did not have to change my major and waste all the hard work I had done in so many classes, but I could still learn ministry. It was there that I had peace about my future for the first time and knew that it was exactly where God wanted me to be."

The only obstacle that remained was her parents' blessing. It took some convincing, but receiving the Speed Scholarship helped Phillips persuade them that MC was where she needed to be.

During her three semesters in Clinton, she has found a community and an institution that has contributed to her educational and spiritual growth. Two of her fellow Choctaws have agreed to be bridesmaids in her upcoming wedding.

"I have made so many lifelong friends and connections – things I did not have at my other colleges," Phillips said. "It's amazing how God works and truly will work things out for the good of those who love Him."

Levingston, a Christian studies major, studied social work at Holmes with plans to transfer to a public university. He wanted to move away from home and gain a measure of independence from his hometown. He aspired to pursue vocational ministry after graduation, but his plans changed when he learned about the Speed Scholarship program at MC. He enrolled in the Christian University and declared Christian studies as his major, knowing it aligned with his calling to vocational ministry.

But his journey to accepting this calling was not without struggle.

"I first sensed the Lord's call to full-time ministry during high school; however, I initially pursued other paths," Levingston said. "At Holmes, I found my desires for a career constantly shifting. My thoughts always returned to working in the church. No matter what direction I tried to take, I couldn't shake the feeling of being called to ministry."

Eventually, he surrendered to what he believes is God's plan for his life.

"This calling is one of the many reasons I consider Christian studies at Mississippi College a blessing and an opportunity I wouldn't have had without the Speed Scholarship," he said. "MC has exceeded any expectations I could have imagined. Any time someone asks me about my experience at MC, my highest praise is always for the education I've received. It has been an incredible privilege to learn more about God's word from the Christian Studies professors."

What excited him the most about sharing his testimony was explaining how MC has prepared him for future ministry.

"I've learned how to study God's Word more deeply and interpret the meaning behind each passage of Scripture. I am confident that the education and experiences I've gained at Mississippi College will equip me to shepherd a congregation faithfully one day."

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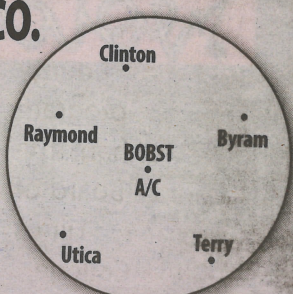
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FEBRUARY 2025

Hinds County 4-H Members Earn Titles At The 89th Annual County Livestock Show

A gathering of families, friends, and supporters of Hinds County's future livestock producers culminated at the Ted Kendall Ag Complex at Hinds Community College in Raymond for the first leg of the 4-H Livestock Shows which was held January 10-11th. Friday night festivities

consisted of a silent auction, live auction, and our ever-popular Cloverbud Showmanship. The Cloverbud Classes made up of exhibitors under the age of eight entertained us with their excitement over showing beef, swine and goat projects for the very first time.

Hogs are shown in their respective breed classes. In the York Division, Champion honors went to the Bridgers Brothers. In the end, Judge Tyler Braud, named the Bridgers' Yorkshire as Grand Champion and their Commercial Gilt as Reserve Grand Champion



Grand Champion Market Hog-Garrett Bridgers

Market Hog.

Haired Sheep are sheep that produce hair instead of wool and shed their hair naturally instead of being sheared. The Bailey Family exhibited their Katahdin sheep this year in the Hinds County Show and came out with Champion and Reserve Champion Breeding Haired Sheep Titles. Congratulation to our new Family of Exhibitors!



Champion and Reserve Champion Haired Sheep-Warren and Sydney Bailey

Dairy Goats, like Dairy Cattle, are evaluated on the amount of milk that they produce.

Robert Farr earned Champion Alpine Senior Doe and Best Senior Doe in Show honors along with Champion Alpine Junior Doe. Kasey Pigg earned Reserve Champion Junior Alpine honors with her doe.

In the Commercial Heifer Show, coming back for the Supreme Beef Breeding Honor was: Leah Surrette with her Other Breeds Heifer. In this final drive, Judge Breaux named Leah Surrette's Other Breeds Heifer as the Overall Supreme



Champion Senior Dairy Goat-Robert Farr

Champion Beef Animal.

The 2025 Hinds County Livestock Show concluded with the last event, the steer show. The Champion and Reserve Champion European Steer went to Sadie and Jimmy Washburn. In the English division, Jimmy and Sadie earned Champion. In the last decision of the day, Judge Breaux named Jimmy and Sadie Washburn's European Champion Steer (exhibited by Sadie) as Grand and their English Champion Steer (exhibited by Jimmy) as Reserve Grand Champion.



Supreme Beef Female-Leah Surrette



Grand Champion Steer- Sadie and Jimmy Washburn

The Hinds County 4H Livestock Club would like to congratulate James Farr, Lauren Hand, and Reagan Lord for being the recipients of a \$1,000 graduating senior livestock scholarship awarded by the Hinds County 4H Livestock Scholarship Committee. We also congratulate Lauren Hand for earning a \$500 Scholarship awarded in honor of longtime Hinds County 4H Livestock Judging Coach and Volunteer, Mr. Greg Williams.

The Hinds County Livestock program would like to thank the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, Hinds Community College, Hinds County Livestock Association, our Scholarship Committee, and the many supporters who make our annual show possible.



Graduating Senior 4H Livestock Members (left to right) Lauren Hand, Reagan Lord, and James Farr.

IN MEMORIAM
ROBERT W. "BOB" PRICE
TERRY, MS



Robert W. "Bob" Price, 81, was forever healed on January 1, 2025, as he passed into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife of over 30 years: Alinda "Gay" Price, 4 children: Sherrie Price, Scott (Melissa) Price, Tracy (Thurston) Baker, and Mandy (Chad) Shows, 2 siblings: Al Price and Frances Tisdale and last, but certainly not least, 8 precious grandchildren: Ashley, Taylor, Destiney, Gregg, Kristen, Blake, Dillan, and Shelby. He also leaves 18 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will

miss him and loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Murray and Polly Price, 1 son: Clint Butler, and 2 grandchildren: Logan Shows and Dalane Butler.

Bob joined the Air Force at the young age of 18, serving as an Air Policeman. When he left the service, he began a lifelong career at AT&T, where he retired in 1994. He served in many capacities during his telephone career and developed many close friendships.

Bob was a loving and sacrificial father, raising 3 teenage children. He loved his family and especially loved when they all got together.

He loved people and was never happier than when he was making them laugh. He was an avid golfer in his younger days and loved watching all sports, especially when one of his children was participating. He loved to travel all over.

He was a faithful member of FBC Terry, MS and loved his church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any memorials be sent to FBC Terry, Missionary Fund.

A Celebration of Life:
Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 10:00 am
First Baptist Church of Terry

IN MEMORIAM
JIMMY L. MCFARLAND
TERRY, MS

Jimmy L. McFarland passed this life into the presence of his Lord January 18, 2025.

Visitation and service will be held Thursday, January 23rd at Stringer Family Funeral Home in Crystal Springs, MS. Visitation from 12:00 PM till the time of service at 2:00 PM with burial at Terry Cemetery.

Jimmy was born February 4, 1945, in Jackson, MS. He was a charter member and deacon of Wynndale Baptist Church.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jesse Lawrence and Nannie Hynum McFarland and daughter, Jamie Jenkins Beck.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jeanie Sweeney McFarland, grandsons, Jesse Jenkins (Andrea, Tyler Jenkins (Jordan) and three great-grandchildren, Anna James Jenkins, Liam Mac Jenkins, and Hadley May Jenkins, Brother, Donald Wayne McFarland (Sally), sisters, Joyce Barron (James) and Carolyn Lack, along with many nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Jimmy worked for 32 years for the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and over 20 years with the USDA Department of Agriculture Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Regulatory Enforcement & Animal Care. He was a lifetime cattle farmer and in his free time was a Farrier.

He spent his retirement traveling with his wife, Jeanie, tending cattle and the land he grew up on.

Jimmy and Jeanie have spent the last three years loving and enjoying their great grandchildren, who will miss him dearly. Family was his greatest treasure in life. He enjoyed every moment with them on a very special trip to Disney World in September with all of his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His family takes comfort in knowing that he is no longer sick and has his full sight with his Lord and Savior.

Memorials may be made to Crosses Across America, Vicksburg, MS, or Fresenius Kidney Care.

CJHS Cheer Tryouts

FEB 03

Tryout Packets Available in CJHS Front Office

FEB 21

Tryout Packets Due! They can be turned in to the Front Office by 4:00. NO LATE APPLICATIONS

FEB 24

MANDATORY Parent Meeting @ SHJHS 6:00 PM

MAR 02

MANDATORY Tryout Clinic @ CHS 4:30 - 6:00

MAR 03

OPTIONAL Tryout Clinic @ CHS 4:30 - 6:00

MAR 04

OPTIONAL Tryout Clinic @ CHS 4:30 - 6:00

MAR 06

Tryouts @ CJHS! 8th Grade: 4:00 7th Grade: 5:00

MAR 07

2025 - 2026 CJHS Cheer Squad Posted Online 8:00 PM

ANY QUESTIONS? Email arimmer@clintonpublicschools.com

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JANUARY OBITUARIES

BYRAM
Ernie A. Lee, 67 - 1/19

CLINTON
Charles B. Kovarik, 58 - 1/7
Debra E. Maples, 71 - 1/8
Alberta Brinston, 94 - 1/10
April Michelle Riley, 52 - 1/14
Earnest Lowrey Barlow, 95 - 1/15
Peggy Ellis Box, 88 - 1/16
Mark Joseph Fisher, 64 - 1/20
Stanley L. Prather, 76 - 1/20
Suzanne Elise Riley Brown, 70 - 1/21
Brenda Cheatham Eubanks, 64 - 1/22
Geraldine Foley Fraiser, 101 - 1/22

RAYMOND
Benard Hubbard, 86 - 1/16
Larry Wayne Lick, 68 - 1/17
Charles Lee Robinson, 92 - 1/22
Joseph White, 78 - 1/23

TERRY
Robert W. "Bob" Price, 81 - 1/1
Jimmy L. McFarland, 80 - 1/18

UTICA
Alexis Ver'Grace Williams, 22 - 1/13

Parry Wins Hinds Co. Spelling Bee



Clinton 5th grader Graeme Parry placed first in the Hinds County Spelling Bee. His championship word correctly spelled was "Sapphire." He advances to the Mississippi Spelling Bee Online Semifinals and has the opportunity to advance to the State Spelling Bee sponsored by C-Spire.

Board Recognizes Parents, Teacher And Administrator Of The Year

The Clinton Public School District's Board of Trustees recently celebrated and recognized our Parents of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Administrator of the Year.



Clinton Parents of the Year for 2025 are (L to R): Erick Lowery, Sumner Hill; Sally Garcia, Northside; Jonathan Nutt, Clinton Park; Lindsey Howell, CPSD & CJHS Parent of the Year; Greg Nohra, Eastside; and Erin Courtney, Lovett. Not pictured is Julie Wardlaw, CHS.

Did you know?

Washington, D.C., Is The Country's Ninth Capital



While Washington, D.C., is the U.S. capital we're most familiar with today, it's far from the country's first. In fact, it came at the end of a long road. When the Second Continental Congress declared the independence of the United States of America in 1776, its home base at the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) made Philadelphia the first capital of the brand-new nation. But arriving waves of British soldiers made life dangerous in the major coastal cities of the former colonies, and congressional delegates often found themselves on the move during the Revolutionary War years. Following a two-month stay in Baltimore, the Continental Congress returned to Philadelphia for six months before reconvening for one September 1777 day in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Next, they moved the capital a little farther west to York for nine months, before going back to Philadelphia again.

While the American Revolution was effectively over by summer 1783, a domestic threat from Continental Army soldiers seeking overdue wages again sent congressional delegates scurrying, this time to the campus of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). From there, it was on to Annapolis, Maryland, and then to the future New Jersey capital of Trenton through late 1784, before the government began to stabilize with the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the election of President George Washington during its nearly six-year tenure in New York City.

Following the passage of the Residence Act in 1790, the seat of government again temporarily returned to Philadelphia, as a new federal city was built on land appropriated from Maryland and Virginia around the Potomac River. Although Philadelphians attempted to convince President Washington to stay with the offer of a lavish mansion, political horse trading had already ensured that the capital would be set in a more southern location. When Congress met for the first time in the brand-new U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., in November 1800, shortly after President John Adams moved into what eventually became known as the White House, the government's days as a peripatetic entity were officially over.



CPSD Teacher of the Year, Wesley Pope.



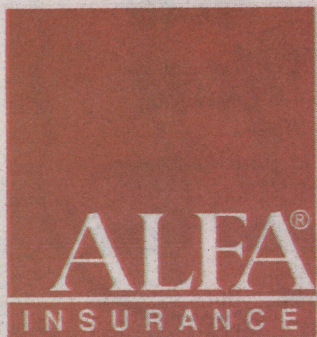
CPSD Administrator of the Year, Demetria Funchess.



Lions Club meets
2nd Tuesday of each month
Faith Building
First Baptist Church, Terry, MS
7:00 p.m. (Supper Served)

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Ranch Dressing

What would housing look like in Mississippi if not for the Ranch house? While the stereotype of our housing stock might be of Greek Revival piles, variations of the Ranch house can be found in every corner of the state, lived in by every race and class. Thanks to the national resurgence in popularity of mid-century modern designs during the past decade, the Ranch house has slowly crept into the public's acceptance as "historic." But when exactly did this housing typology show up in the Magnolia State?



Medgar Evers House, Jackson, Mississippi

The Ranch house is a style that is explicitly tied to its form; a broad front, one-story structure with a low pitched roof. There have been structures built that meet those criteria in Mississippi since pre-history, but when did this form elevate to the term of Ranch house?

Pondering this question, I ran the term "Ranch house" through a newspaper search engine to see the earliest use of the term as a style of home being built in Mississippi. The earliest use of the term Ranch house that I could find was in the February 4, 1940 Morning edition of the *Daily Clarion-Ledger*, which published an architectural rendering with the headline "New Home Planned For Billy Burton, Jr." The caption reads:

New Home Planned For Billy Burton, Jr.

Designed by Architect Henry G. Markel, the residence is a ranch-house style of the low, rambling type, featuring an exterior of one inch cypress board and split cypress shingles.



The house still stands today on Terry Road, albeit with a pre-1968 wing addition to the north elevation. There are a few physical differences between the architect's rendering and the as-built house. If you spot any, let us know in the comments below.

What drove the Ranch house name acceptance, along with the style? Two articles published a decade after this first ranch house inadvertently tried to make sense of the phenomenon the Ranch house had become in the post-World War era. Both articles related to the decorating of homes and both mention informality of Ranch houses as an attraction point. The first is titled 'Informal Modern' For Ranch Types;

The modern ranch type of house with its rambling one-story floor plan, spacious windows, and natural wood interior walls, trim, or beams, which is rapidly becoming the most popular American style of architecture demand furnishings best described as "informal modern" with slightly rugged influence.

As casual living is associated with the ranch house, formal furnishings, whether traditional or contemporary, are not in character with this type of house. ...

-*'Informal Modern' For Ranch Types. Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, MS) 28 March 1950.*

The second article is from August 1950.

Paint Made in Roof Colors For Better Exterior Styling

... Since the war, color consciousness has been stimulated by the popularity of informal architecture, such as ranch house design, with its lack of traditional restrictions. ...

-*"Paint Made in Roof Colors For Better Exterior Styling" The Delta Democrat-Times (Greenville, MS) 22 August 1950.*

Both of these descriptions of the Ranch house focus on the informality of the floor plan, differing from traditional floor plans which contain a hierarchy of spaces. Formal (or perhaps aspirational) protocol would dictate that a front entrance leads to a hall, or foyer when entering a home. However, now with the Ranch house, even the nicest of houses could have a front entrance leading directly into a living room and not seem misguided.

The interior description makes the living room the center of the house, while the knotty pine walls, exposed roof trusses, and stone fireplace all give the space the "rugged influence" mentioned in the March 1950 article.

The only other period image of the house I found in the papers includes another key element to any mid-century Ranch house back yard; a masonry barbecue pit. (My father, William (Bill) Joseph Wright built one behind his home after he came back from the war). The barbecue pit is constructed of rough ashlar stone, and has a chimney behind the firebox.

The Ranch house term search found scant evidence of other homes constructed with the description of 'Ranch house' in Mississippi until after the 1945. When G.I.s began returning from the war, the Ranch house started appearing in every corner of the state, in both urban and rural settings. I think its fairly appropriate that one of the Mississippi's earliest Ranch house examples so far located was indeed a house constructed for a horse and stock farm.

The home's architect, Henry Markel, was a fairly significant residential architect for Mississippi.

HENRY G. MARKEL

Registered Architect — Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia

Advertisement for Henry G. Markel, Architect. The *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS) 1 January 1946.

THE WICKER REPORT

SENATOR WICKER'S WEEKLY REPORT from CONGRESS

Wicker Continues Advocating for Life
New Trump Administration Good for Pro-Life Movement

This month, I introduced a bill that would create a permanent, comprehensive ban on the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. The U.S. Congress regularly passes measures that make it illegal to spend federal dollars on the procedure, but the statutes are temporary and patchwork. With my legislation, I aim to make it clear that American taxpayers should never be forced to contribute to abortion.

The timing of my bill is key. In the pro-life movement, we observe Sanctity of Life month every January, but this one is special. The wind is at our backs as Republicans hold Congress and the White House. In the coming years, we have numerous opportunities to reverse permissive Biden-era abortion rules and to do what we can to support unborn children, mothers, and families.

Senate Taking Steps to Protect the Most Vulnerable

The Senate is considering numerous pieces of legislation to advance pro-life efforts. I was an original cosponsor of legislation that would set the standard of care infants must receive if they survive an attempted abortion. Such a bill should not be controversial. For that reason, I am disturbed that every single Democrat opposed the measure.

I have also cosponsored an effort that would accomplish two important goals: ending federal funding for Planned Parenthood and maintaining assistance for vital women's health care services. That action would redirect previously allocated funds away from Planned Parenthood, a major abortion provider. It would use those resources to support eligible providers that offer cancer screenings, prenatal and postnatal care, and other important services for women.

Mississippi is a seedbed of the pro-life movement, and I have joined a resolution commending some of our state's contributions to the cause. My fellow home-state Senator, Cindy Hyde-Smith, introduced the measure recognizing Representative Becky Currie. She authored the Gestational Age Act, which prohibited abortion after 15 weeks in Mississippi. Activists challenged the law, and the case ultimately led the Supreme Court to reverse Roe v Wade, ending the federal right to an abortion.

President Trump Poised to Undo Biden's Abortion Regime

That monumental Supreme Court ruling, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, gave states the power to make decisions about this issue. But after it was announced, the Biden administration consistently attempted to claw back that authority to the federal level. I am optimistic that the Trump administration will quickly reverse President Biden's overreaching policies.

For example, the former president allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct abortions, in direct violation of a 1992 law. President Trump has nominated Doug Collins to lead the agency, and he is poised to correct course. In Mr. Collins' confirmation hearing, he promised that the VA will once again follow the law.

Progress Represents Decades of Faithful Work

In the two years since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, the pro-life movement has learned that our work is not done. For decades, our advocacy focused on the federal level. Through the combined efforts of organizers, elected officials, and untold volunteers, Roe v Wade was eventually overturned. Now, the work continues in state houses, ballot initiatives, and local grassroots campaigns.

We have reason to hope that this work will succeed, just as the efforts to overturn Roe succeeded. This month, thousands of Americans braved icy temperatures in Washington, D.C., to advocate for unborn children. The annual event, known as the March for Life, sends a strong message to the nation's capital, and it is accompanied by events in states around the U.S - including Mississippi. These attendees demonstrate once again that America is full of citizens eager to see the most vulnerable lives protected.

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3. Immunization Record (State of Mississippi Form # 121)
4. Proof of legal custody or guardianship
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Expect Changes

So many times we ask and pray for changes, but if we don't see the immediate results we give up and think it will never happen. The hardest part is waiting for the change to take place. We must continue to expect those changes to happen. When you ask and pray for something you don't have to keep praying for it again and again. After you ask that is when you start thanking God for what he is doing to answer your prayer. It may take a while, so just be patient and see what he does. It will be amazing to see what all he will do and to see how he does it. God will for sure exceed your expectations. His ways are higher than our ways, so it will be so much better than anything you could ever imagine.

We have all prayed for changes so expect it to all be amazing!

Just remember to be patient and keep the faith in him by thanking him for what all he is doing.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

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MC And Southern Miss Partner On 3+3 Accelerated Law Degree Program



MC President Blake Thompson, left, and USM President Joe Paul congratulate one another after signing the 3+3 partnership.

Students at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) aiming to pursue a career as an attorney now have access to an accelerated law school pathway, made possible through a newly established partnership with Mississippi College (MC).

A Memorandum of Understanding between The University of Southern Mississippi and the Mississippi College School of Law signed January 13 allows qualified Southern Miss students to earn both their bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate (JD) in six years of study—decreasing the total length of undergraduate studies plus law school by one full year.

"We are deeply appreciative of this connection with the Mississippi College School of Law and are thrilled to be able to offer this new degree pathway for our students seeking to attend law school," said Dr. Chris Winstead, Southern Miss College of Arts and Sciences dean.

"Through this connection with MC Law, our students have the opportunity to complete both a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctorate in six years rather than the usual seven. By having courses from the first year of law school count toward graduation requirements for their bachelor's degree, students save an entire year as they progress toward their legal career," Winstead added.

"Mississippi College is proud to partner with The University of Southern Mississippi to offer motivated and talented students a streamlined path to earning their Juris Doctorate. At MC Law, students will join a dynamic community of outstanding faculty, supportive staff and accomplished peers, all committed to preparing future legal professionals who will make a meaningful impact in their communities," said MC Provost and Executive Vice President Mike Highfield.

Students who have completed three-fourths of the coursework required for a bachelor's degree from USM will be eligible for admission to law school. After the student successfully completes the first year of the JD program with a grade of C or higher in each course, USM will assign academic credit based on the transfer equivalencies set forth in the participating USM degree program and award the appropriate bachelor's degree. Then, after the student completes all law school requirements, MC will award the JD degree.

Southern Miss President Dr. Joe Paul stated that the university is committed to rigorously marketing this opportunity to our current and future students.

"I am fully confident they will receive top shelf legal education and training at Mississippi College," said Paul. "Our students have Southern Miss grit; they set audacious goals and pursue them with uncommon passion and relentless persistence. This will serve them well in the study of law."

Mississippi College President Blake Thompson highlighted how the partnership underscores the goal to retain talent in Mississippi.

"This new partnership between USM and MC Law allows us to better serve Mississippi by pairing Southern Miss with Mississippi's only capital city law school," said Thompson. "This arrangement benefits both USM and MC and establishes a clear pathway to help keep the best and brightest future lawyers in our state."

Students participating in the accelerated degree program must take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and earn a competitive score no later than December of their third year of full-time enrollment at Southern Miss. Participating students must also apply to law school no later than February of the third year of undergraduate study using the standard process and criteria for law school admission.

MC Law Dean John Anderson emphasized the history and partnership between the two schools.

"USM has always been one of MC Law's top feeder schools, and some of our most successful alums are Golden Eagles! I am confident that the cost savings and convenience of this 3+3 partnership will only enhance the strong relationship between the two schools to the advantage of many future Mississippi lawyers," said Anderson.

The accelerated law school pathway meets the requirements of the American Bar Association.

MC Law started educating future attorneys in 1930 as the Jackson School of Law in Jackson, Miss., where the State Capitol, Mississippi Supreme Court, federal courts and many of Mississippi's most respected law firms are nearby, giving students practical experience in the field before graduation.

Harden Selected As New MC School Of Nursing Dean



Kelly Harden, former dean and professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, will become dean of the Mississippi College School of Nursing, effective Feb. 1.

Harden succeeds Lisa Eichelberger, who has served as interim dean of the school since December 2023.

"Dr. Harden brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this role, and we are excited to welcome her to the MC family," said MC Provost and

Executive Vice President Michael J. Highfield. "We are confident that Dr. Harden's leadership will advance the mission of the School of Nursing and continue to build on its tradition of excellence."

Harden has extensive experience in nursing education and leadership. She has spent the last 18 years educating nurses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, serving in academic leadership roles for 16 of those years. She led the Union University College of Nursing, considered one of the top-ranked Christian nursing programs in the U.S., for nine years.

"I am honored to join this prestigious institution that is fully committed to advancing its mission and serving Christ through academic excellence," Harden said.

"The School of Nursing at Mississippi College has prepared nurses to serve with distinction for over 50 years. I look forward to building on that rich tradition by working with faculty and staff to find innovative ways to meet the complex healthcare needs of our community, nation and world," she added.

Harden earned her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Mississippi County Community College in Blytheville, Arkansas, and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, New York. She obtained her Master of Science in Nursing as a family nurse practitioner from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and her Doctor of Nursing Science from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She also received a postgraduate certificate from Union University as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. She graduated from the Wharton Executive Leadership Program and the Dyer County Leadership Program.

While pursuing her doctorate, Harden served as a full-time primary care family nurse practitioner and precepted many nurse practitioner students. She has also served as an adjunct at Chamberlain University in Chicago, Illinois.

A Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Harden has engaged in professional and civic organizations on many levels. She has served as District Vice President of the Tennessee Nurse Association and held two terms as President of the West Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Alliance. She serves on the Vanderbilt Lung Transplant Advisory Board and the Vanderbilt Kidney Transplant Patient Advocacy Board. She is a member of the American Alliance of Nurse Practitioners, the Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society, and Mensa International.

A volunteer site visitor for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, Harden maintains clinical practice as a dual-certified family nurse practitioner and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented on the local, state and national levels. Her interests include global health and organ transplants.

Harden also has a passion for missions. For 10 years, she led a group of faculty and students on an annual trip to the Dominican Republic.

Kelly and her husband, Michael, have two daughters, two granddaughters and a Cocker Spaniel named Henry.

Morgan Cheatham Of Byram Recently Served As A Page For The Mississippi Senate



Morgan Cheatham of Byram recently served as a page for the Mississippi Senate. Pages generally run errands for officials and Senate staff. Morgan is pictured with Lieutenant Governor C. Delbert Hosemann Jr., who sponsored her visit, and Senator David Blount. Morgan is the daughter of Dr. Tomeka Hall Cheatham and attends Jackson Academy. When asked about the week, Morgan said, "I enjoyed paging this week and learned so much about the state's government and legislators. I was able to meet many senators and see what their workdays consist of during the legislative session. Also, along with some of the senior pages, I visited the Two Mississippi Museums and learned more about the history of civil rights within Mississippi and the history of the state entirely."

5 Signs That You Should Replace An Electrical Outlet

Outlets are designed to provide safe and reliable power, but older or damaged can become a hazard. Do you have electrical outlets in your home that need replaced? Here are five common signs of trouble.

1. Loose connections

Over time, internal connections can become loose or worn out, potentially leading to electrical hazards. If an outlets feels loose or wobbly when you plug something into it. It may be a sign that the outlet needs replaced.

2. Damaged plates

If the outlet plate is cracked, damaged or showing signs of discoloration, it may indicate wear and tear or potential damage to the electrical components behind the plate. In these cases, it's often safer to replace the entire unit rather than just the plate.

3. Flickering lights

If you notice lights flickering when plugged into a specific outlet or after you plug another appliance into that outlet, it could indicate an issue. Loose connections or faulty wiring within the outlet can disrupt the flow of electricity.

4. Two-pronged outlets

If you have older two-pronged (non-grounded) outlets, it may be time to upgrade. Grounded three-pronged outlets provide better safety and protect against electrical shocks.

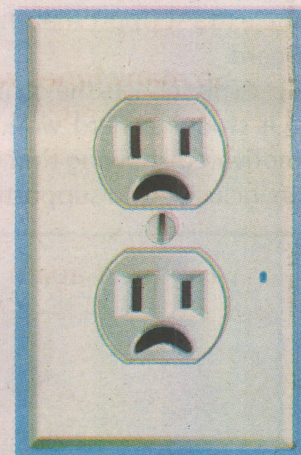
5. Standard outlets in damp areas

If you have standard outlets located in potentially damp areas — such as the kitchen, bathroom or outdoors — you should upgrade them to ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets. A GFCI is a fast-acting circuit breaker that shuts off power in case the outlet comes into contact with water, protecting against electrical shock.

Get smart

Consider upgrading to smart outlets. Smart outlets save energy by automatically cutting power to unused plugged-in electronic devices. They also give you remote control of plugged-in devices through your smartphone or voice assistant. Just install the smart outlet and connect it using the accompanying app.

Replacing an outlet can be a DIY project if you feel comfortable doing the work. Remember however, safety is critical. If you feel uncertain about any electrical issues or replacing an outlet, contact a qualified electrician.



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Northside recognized At MDE Board Meeting For National ESEA Award



Pictured (L to E): Mr. Glen East, MDE Board Chair; Dr. Andy Schoggin, CPSD Superintendent; Mrs. Mandy Ambrose, Northside Principal; Mrs. Leslie Alexander, CPSD Federal Programs Director; and Dr. Lance Evans, Mississippi State Superintendent.

CLINTON — Northside Elementary was officially recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education's Board of Trustees for winning the National Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or ESEA, Distinguished School award for the work done during the 2023-2024 school year to close the achievement gap between student groups over the past few years.

Northside Principal Mandy Ambrose and CPSD Federal Programs Director and former Northside Assistant Principal Leslie Alexander were present during the MDE's January 16 board meeting to accept the award.

"This award is a testament to the collective work of our entire school community who believes every student matters, no matter their background or their ability deserves access to high quality instruction and the extra support that they need to meet their needs," Ambrose said to the board.

"This reflects the commitment of our staff and also shines a spotlight on our students' hard work and their perseverance," she added. "We remain motivated knowing that with every step we take we come closer to offering an inclusive and supportive educational experience for all students."

Keep Pets' Health, Safety In Mind During Severe Cold

By Nathan Gregory
MSU Extension Service

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Remembering the "four P's" of freeze safety -- people, pets, plants and pipes -- is an adage heard constantly this time of year, but doing so will be even more critical than normal during the week of Jan. 20-24 as temperatures are projected to dip below freezing and stay there for several days in Mississippi.

Caring for pets in prolonged cold weather will not involve many adjustments for owners of indoor pets, but protecting outside pets and livestock in these conditions requires extra attention.

Carla Huston, Mississippi State University Extension Service veterinarian and professor with the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, said indoors is the best place for all pets to be when temperatures stay below freezing for days at a time. There are alternatives, however, to shield them from the elements when bringing them inside the home is not feasible.

"The big thing is to provide a shelter to protect your animals from wind and moisture," Huston said. "If you have a garage or shed, even if it's unheated, keeping pets there during a cold snap is a good option, but heat lamps and space heaters in an area that doesn't create a fire hazard are handy to have this time of year. Try to avoid blankets unless the pet will be in an indoor area. Blankets can get wet and hold in moisture, which makes it easier for animals to get frostbite or hypothermia.

"It is recommended that outdoor dog owners put straw in a doghouse, large barrel, or other enclosure where the animal can keep warm, but any shelter should be in an area that is draft and moisture-free," she added. "Windbreaks can be made from tarps or other large pieces of material. If possible, try to acclimate your pet to any type of new surroundings before the temperature falls."

Mike Brown, state climatologist and meteorology professor at MSU, said the northern quarter of the state may spend 72-96 consecutive hours at or below freezing, while areas south of there, near U.S. Highway 82, will likely experience 48-72 hours of those conditions. Interstate 20 and southward will likely have afternoon highs above freezing but overnight lows below freezing, including the coastal counties.

"We are seeing a large and rather strong area of high pressure over the northern Pacific near the Gulf of Alaska," Brown said. "This is providing a mechanism by which the jet stream will dive into the central U.S., bringing very cold air from northern Canada southward. Given we are at the climatologically coldest period for much of Canada and the northern U.S., the air we will experience may be 20 to 25 degrees colder than normal for this time of year."

Signs of animal distress in these conditions include constant shivering, lethargy, dilated pupils and a weak pulse. In these cases, warming the animal up until it reaches a body temperature of at least 100 degrees Fahrenheit is critical, especially if the animal is wet. The normal body temperature of a dog is approximately 101.8 degrees, and temperatures under 99 are cause for concern.

"You can place a hair dryer, a heat lamp or portable heater close enough to the animal where it can warm up gradually and dry off, but be careful to not overheat the animal or leave it unattended," Huston said. "Don't exercise or play with pets outside a lot in extreme cold, and wipe off the pads of their feet when they come back indoors to keep them dry and clean."

Huston also recommends keeping outdoor pets' food and water supply well stocked.

"Digestion warms animals up, so you want to provide pets a little extra food during cold weather because it gives them energy to help them maintain their body temperature," she said.

These guidelines also apply to owners of livestock, Huston said. If farm animals are not housed in a barn, they can be moved to an area with a wind block. An example would be a pasture with a pine tree stand.

"Most of your livestock are going to be OK as long as they can get a break from the wind, but rolling out an extra bale of hay or providing more feed is even more important to helping them maintain their body temperature," she said. "A fresh source of water is needed because animals that are withheld from water for days at a time can be subject to water deprivation or fatal salt toxicity."

Cows that are calving must also have a dry, warm area during a cold snap.

"Newborn animals are wet, so it's necessary to provide their expectant mothers a dry place, preferably a barn or protected area in the pasture, where they can calve out," Huston said. "Make sure the baby gets dried off before facing the elements on its own."



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MSU Invites Growers To North, Central PAC Meetings

By Nathan Gregory
MSU Extension Service

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- Growers in south Mississippi recently shared their research and programming needs with Mississippi State University's agricultural specialists, and producers in the state's central and northern areas will soon have their turn.

The MSU Extension Service and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station will host Producer Advisory Council meetings at three of their research and Extension centers across the state.

PAC meetings present opportunities for growers to meet with MSU commodity experts and share ideas for research and educational projects.

The Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center will host producers on Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McKenzie Arena, located at 1200 Seven Springs Road in Raymond. To register online, visit <http://msuext.ms/centralpac25>. For disability accommodation or to register by phone, contact Rebecca Leigh at 601-857-2284 or r.leigh@msstate.edu.

Producers in northern Mississippi will gather on Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center. The meeting will be at the center's Magnolia Building, located at 5395 Highway 145 South in Verona. To register, visit <http://msuext.ms/northpac25>. For disability accommodation or registration by phone, contact Paige Kirk at 662-566-2201 or paige.kirk@msstate.edu.

The meetings will begin with general sessions before breaking off into several commodity groups. Some of the groups are agronomic crops, apiculture, aquaculture, beef, dairy, equine, forestry and wildlife, goats and sheep, horticulture, poultry, sweet potatoes and swine.

Online registration for the meetings is encouraged, but on-site registration for each meeting will be available beginning at 8 a.m. Each meeting includes a free catered lunch.

Ways To Save While Staying Warm



It may be getting colder outside, but there are ways to keep your home cozy without the discomfort of high energy bills.

- 1. **Change your furnace filter** regularly to help your system run more efficiently, saving you money and keeping your indoor air cleaner.
- 2. **Program your thermostat** to automatically reduce the temperature of your home when it's empty or everyone's asleep. A smart thermostat will set a schedule for you.
- 3. **Inspect windows, doors and walls for air leaks** and seal any you find. Letting in cold air makes it harder to keep your house warm.
- 4. **Switch ceiling fans to winter mode** to push air up to the ceiling, forcing the warm air back down to the floor, where it keeps you warmer.

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EMPOWER MISSISSIPPI



Empower Mississippi Report Highlights Growth In Labor Force Participation Rate, Outlines Recommendations For Continued Improvement

Nonprofit organization Empower Mississippi today released its second report on state labor force trends. In this publication, entitled "Moving the Needle: Select Recommendations for Improving Mississippi's Labor Force Participation Rate," Empower highlights solid growth in the labor force participation rate and includes select recommendations for continued improvement.

Those recommendations include:

- Eliminating the state's tax on work
- Encouraging early work experience for youth
- Teaching the "Success Sequence"
- Encouraging remote work opportunities
- Implementing a local data collection pilot project
- Eliminating unnecessary degree requirements (skills-based hiring)
- Providing transparency in the value of a college degree
- Reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulations
- Closing the high school equivalency (HSE) testing gaps
- Implementing justice reforms like expanding the state's work release program, expanding the Fresh Start Act, and expungement of non-violent felony convictions

Empower focuses on three policy areas: education, justice, and work. The ongoing labor force participation rate study aligns with each of those pillars.

"We set out to study why people work – or don't – for several reasons, the most important of which is our belief that work is fundamentally good, fulfilling, and essential to the human experience," said Grant Callen, Empower Mississippi Chief Executive Officer. "While tracking the labor force participation rate is helpful, we know meaningful recommendations must do more than shift numbers on a spreadsheet. With that in mind, we designed a policy framework with high-impact solutions like removing barriers to work, creating new opportunities for growth, and promoting a culture of work among our youth. While our research is ongoing and I expect more recommendations in the future, we believe implementation of these policies will result in real change for Mississippians."

Empower will continue studying other topics impacting labor force participation, including disability, caregiving, cost of living, public pensions, and veterans, and invites members of the public to provide questions, feedback, or other information by emailing research@empowerms.org.

Outgoing Mississippi College Trustees Honored For Years Of Service



MC President Blake Thompson, second from left, and Mississippi Colleges Board of Trustees Chair Ronnie Falvey, second from right, visit with outgoing trustees Paul G. Moak Jr., left, Jane Mangum Hederman and Judge Tom Lee. Outgoing trustee Ronnie Smith is not pictured.

Four outgoing members of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees were recognized for their indispensable contributions to the Christian University at the Board of Trustee meeting in December.

Jane Mangum Hederman '67, secretary of the Board of Trustees and 2022 MC Alumna of the Year; Judge Tom Lee '63, '65, a federal justice with the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi and a member of the MC Athletics Hall of Fame; Paul G. Moak Jr., president of Paul Moak Automotive in Jackson; and Ronnie Smith '80, head of corporate banking for Regions Financial Corporation and 2013 MC School of Business Alumnus of the Year, each rotated off of the board after decades of service.

The Board of Trustees is MC's governing body, elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and responsible for guiding the fulfillment of the University's mission.

As a token of thanks for their service to the Christian University, MC President Blake Thompson presented each trustee with a gift – a wooden bowl resourced from felled trees on MC's historic Quad, handcrafted and turned by Dr. Mike Walters, MC Foundation Board chair.

"They have served God by serving MC and its students; we should all seek to follow their examples of faithfulness and devotion," Thompson said. "They epitomize the values of MC, and I know they will continue to serve in various ways for years to come."

Hederman said her service on the Board was blessed with faculty and friends who were willing to respond whenever there was a need.

"Universities go through many seasons of growth and development, and it is rewarding to see the progress Mississippi College has made as we continue to embrace our mission while progressing to meet the needs of the marketplace," she said. "We are willing to evaluate and make changes to keep our academics strong while seeking the direction the Lord would have us go."

"We pray for our future to be worthy of the responsibilities given to all of us. Like the fallen tree was given a new life in the incredible art piece we received from Dr. Thompson, the changes that come can revitalize and empower us with new visions for our future."

Lee called serving on the Board a "singular honor and genuine pleasure."

"Dr. Blake Thompson has assembled a stellar team of executives and he is providing superb leadership for the University," Lee said. "It is especially meaningful to me to be gifted with the exquisite bowl that is so beautifully crafted. It will serve as a treasured reminder of my lifelong association with the University."

Moak said he considers serving on the Board of Trustees at Mississippi College a blessing.

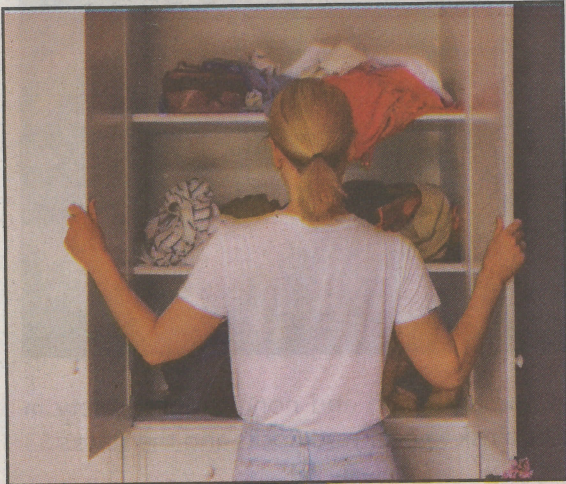
"The reward to me from serving on the Board has been the many relationships with the MC family that I have formed over the years and the high value I place on those relationships," he said. "One of the things I have observed is the strong, consistent commitment to MC and the cause of Christ from all levels of MC, while striving to maintain high academic standards."

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Things You Should Throw Out Of Your Closet Right NOW



You surely know that there are many things you should throw out of your closet. If you believe that you are the type of person who likes to put almost anything in the closet, it is easy to notice that you should definitely get rid of some of that stuff.

Is it missing its match?

If you have something in the closet that is missing its match, then this automatically becomes one of the things you should throw out of your closet. Maybe it is a single sock, or maybe it is a lonely flip-flop. But since it is just one, at this point, you can't do much with this item.

If it's been more than a few months but you still hope to find the missing pair, we don't want to disappoint you, but this is not going to happen anytime soon. Try to take advantage of this and make some more space inside your closet. Maybe you are not making that much space by throwing that item away, but it is better than collecting clutter.

This is how many people end up with a closet full of items they don't even recognize. A sock today, a shoe tomorrow, and after a year of collecting and keeping useless items, they realize their closet is full and they don't know what to do next.

Shoes you are not using anymore!

Speaking of shoes, do you know that they are one of the things you should throw out of your closet if they start collecting dust? Many times when we are cleaning, we come across shoe boxes that are full of dust, and they just sit there.

If you still want to keep all of the shoe boxes, you can find another place to store them, but not in the closet. This space is too small for how much space these boxes can take.

If you know that you will never wear those shoes again, you can donate them or even sell them. There are many online platforms that can help you with that.

Consider donating them to a nearby charity or consignment shop if they're in good shape. Designer footwear should be featured on a resale website and kept in the same location as any clothing that is already on the site.

Clothes that no longer fit!

We all have them. All the clothes that no longer fit us are, for sure, some of the things you should throw out of your closet because they take up space that you can use for something else.

Next time you are decluttering, try to see what things you are not wearing anymore and decide what to do next with them. Maybe you can donate them, or maybe you can sell them. The choice is yours, and you should consider their condition and whether they are designer clothes or not.

For example, if you used to work in an office setting but are now retired or work in a place that is more casual, you don't really need all of the stuff you used to wear at the former workplace. You can select a few classic pieces to save, and the rest you can sell or donate.

Winter gear!

Winter gear is important, and if you still use it, you should not throw it away. Besides this, it is also expensive, so it is a good idea to keep it for as long as you can. But as useful and expensive as it is, winter gear should not be kept in the closet.

You might say, "But they are clothes. Where else should I keep them?" This is a good point, but remember that winter clothes, boots, and shoes are heavy and will take up a lot of space.

Because of this, we advise you to use the following trick: Make a plan for storing winter clothing based on how frequently it will be used. Use closed totes or vacuum-seal bags to store items that are only used during the coldest months.

Things you received as a gift!

Sometimes those close to us don't choose the best gifts, and this is how you end up with a lot of stuff you don't need but still keep around your house. This is especially true when we talk about clothes.

Sometimes your relatives seem to have a knack for buying you ill-fitted clothes that you probably don't even like, and what happens to them is that they will stay forever in your closet and you will never wear them.

This is not ideal, and because of this, we think that these items are among the things you should throw out of your closet right now. You don't need them, so why would you still keep them?

If you feel like you can't do this because you would hurt the person who gave it to you, please give it a second thought. You've never worn those clothes, and they didn't say anything to you. They probably don't even remember the clothes in the first place.

So, do yourself a favor, stop feeling guilty, and get rid of them as fast as you can. Your closet will be thankful!

The stuff you held onto the last time you cleaned the closet!

You know what we are talking about; you know it well. We are talking about all of the items you said you kept the last time you cleaned the closet because you said you would be using them, but this never happened.

They are in the same place, full of dust, and now you know for sure that you don't need them anymore. The last thing that remains is to take them out of your closet and see what you are going to do with them. Maybe you can donate them to charity if they are in good condition.

If you wish to have a nice and tidy closet, you can try upgrading and buying some storage bins.

On September 9, 1917, retired British Navy Admiral John Arbuthnot Fisher wrote a letter to Winston Churchill, then a prominent political figure, discussing matters of national importance during World War I. The letter contained a detail that has since become a topic of fascination for linguists and historians alike. In a strikingly modern twist, the admiral abbreviated the exclamation "Oh my God!" as "OMG." This abbreviation, now synonymous with millennial text and internet culture, appeared decades before the advent of the digital age.

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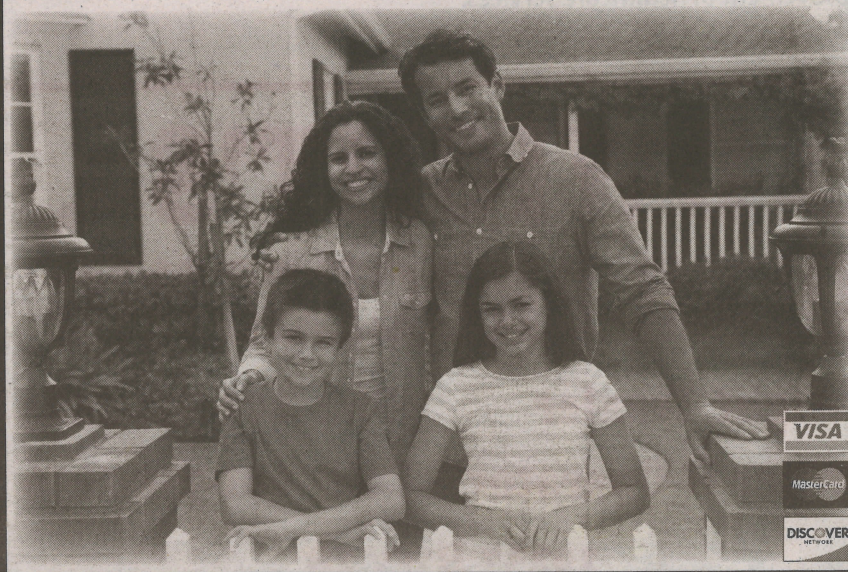
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White Coat Ceremony Marks MC Nursing Students' Transition To Clinical Care



The School of Nursing at Mississippi College will usher first-semester students into clinical practice during its White Coat Ceremony at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, in Anderson Hall on the second floor of the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

The coats are emblematic of those who have met all of the requirements to becoming nursing students and are eligible to celebrate their entrance into patient care.

Mary Ellen Stewart, chair of the Department of Public Health and the School of Nursing's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, will serve as guest speaker.

The White Coat Ceremony is esteemed in nursing as a powerful reminder of the trust placed in future nurses and the sacred responsibility they have to provide compassionate, competent care to all patients.

By participating in the White Coat Ceremony, School of Nursing students promise to uphold the standards of professional nursing practice with pride and diligence and to work with others in mutual cooperation for the improvement of healthcare services.

Following Stewart's address, participants will ascend to the stage in pairs, where a fourth-semester nursing student will help them into their new coats. The students and all healthcare professionals in attendance will then receive a "Blessing of the Hands." The blessing will ask for God's protection, guidance and wisdom as the students move into the profession of nursing.

After receiving their coat and blessing, the students will receive a pocket-sized New Testament from the Gideons International as a reminder of their call to Christian caring. After being individually recognized, the first-semester students will collectively recite the MC School of Nursing creed.

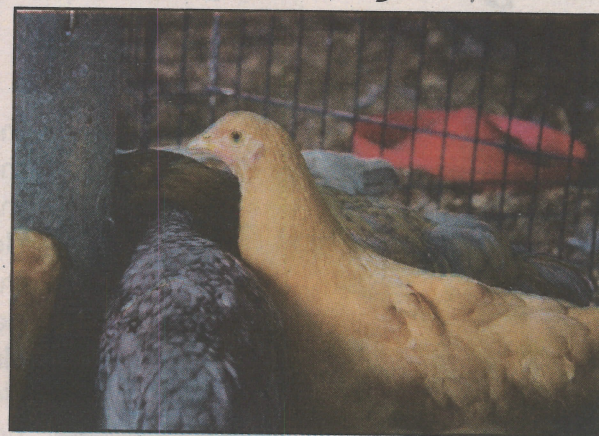
All family and friends of first-semester School of Nursing students are invited to the ceremony. For more information, email Callie Tate at ctate@mc.edu.

MC School of Nursing Creed

I recognize that every person is created in the image of God; that every person deserves respect as a unique individual; and that every person has needs essential to his spiritual, physical and intellectual well-being. I recognize the expanding roles of the profession, the significance of being a vital member of the healthcare team and the emergence of professional nursing as a discipline and a science. Therefore, I commit myself before God and this assembly to the well-being of those I serve, whether in illness or in health; to use my knowledge and skills with compassion and respect; to uphold the standards of professional nursing practice with pride and diligence; and to work with others in mutual cooperation for the improvement of healthcare services.

Biosecurity Can Keep Backyard Flocks Safe

By Bonnie Coblenz
MSU Extension Service



STARKVILLE, Miss. - With highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, in the environment in Mississippi, owners of backyard flocks have to take extra steps to keep their chickens healthy.

Avian influenza poses an extremely low risk to human health and none to food safety in Mississippi, but its presence poses a risk to backyard flocks and the state's \$3 billion commercial poultry industry.

Jessica Wells, poultry specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, said a strong biosecurity program in place on every poultry farm -- both commercial and backyard -- in the state is the best defense against diseases.

"Poultry growers cannot let their guard down simply because there was not a nearby avian influenza outbreak," Wells said. "Growers must be vigilant and continue to maintain a high level of biosecurity. It is easy to become complacent and lulled into a false sense of security, but it's usually when we become complacent that something serious does happen."

Jonathan Moon, MSU Extension poultry specialist, said although bird deaths happen naturally on occasion, a dead bird in a backyard flock today should trigger some extra alertness.

"If you find only one bird dead from what seems like normal mortality and the rest of the birds look good, double bag and throw it in the trash or dispose of it in a compost pile where other birds and scavengers will not get to it," Moon said.

"But if you walk out and find sudden high mortality and/or high numbers of birds showing signs and symptoms of sickness, report it and get some guidance from the Board of Animal Health on what to do," he said.

The Mississippi Board of Animal Health has an online system for reporting high backyard poultry deaths or unusual wild bird deaths. Find the link at <https://www.mbah.ms.gov>.

"Somebody will respond pretty quickly if there is high mortality," Moon said. "This person will give you information on what to do with dead birds and how to secure the location. Use extreme caution and wear full protective equipment including goggles, masks, gloves and suits when handling birds suspected of having HPAI."

Commercial poultry producers already follow strict measures to keep flocks safe, and backyard flock owners should follow their lead to prevent HPAI infecting their flocks.

"In my opinion, the biggest thing backyard flock owners may be neglecting is good biosecurity practices," Moon said.

Symptoms of HPAI are coughing and nasal discharge, lethargy and the chickens looking drawn down. Moon said the incubation period from exposure to the onset of symptoms is about 1-2 weeks, but once symptoms appear, it moves very rapidly through a flock.

"With highly pathogenic avian influenza, you see mass mortality in a short period of time," he said.

Moon urged backyard flock owners to remember that even though people build relationships with their birds, chickens are still livestock and should be treated as such.

"It's not like a pet dog. Keep some distance and use common sense," Moon said. "In a lot of the cases reported so far where humans have contracted HPAI, there's been real close contact with the birds."

Basic biosecurity measures can help protect backyard flocks from HPAI. A top priority is washing hands before entering and when leaving chicken areas, and wearing dedicated footwear or shoe covers when working with chickens.

"Shower and change clothes before caring for chickens after going to any location where other poultry or wild birds are present," Moon said. "Even if you meet up with a friend who also has chickens, change clothes and consider showering before you go around your own birds."

Moon said this level of biosecurity is necessary and sustainable.

"These things may be an inconvenience, but that inconvenience can be something that will potentially keep your birds and the birds down the road or commercial birds safe," Moon said.

Migratory and other wild birds present another risk to backyard flocks of spreading disease, as HPAI is in the wild bird population. This is especially true of birds that are allowed to free range.

"I like to see backyard birds kept contained," he said. "The more you free-range, the more chances they have to come in contact with wild birds and other wildlife. The more contained you can keep them in a covered coop, the safer they're going to be."

Moon said to draw an imaginary line outside the chicken coop. The biosecurity goal is to keep what's in the coop contained and prevent anything outside from entering the coop.

Find more information on avian influenza and biosecurity measures at <https://extension.msstate.edu/avian-flu>.

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Hinds CC Honors Foundation
Scholarship Recipients

RAYMOND – The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2024-2025 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception on Sept. 20 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

The Hinds Community College Foundation will award more than 800 scholarships during the 2024-2025 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for fall 2025 (academic year 2025-2026), is Feb. 15, 2025. For more information, visit www.hindscc.edu.



Among those being recognized were, front from left, Serenity Brown of Byram, Makaylia Brown of Jackson, Ashton O'Bryan of Raymond, Keariel Bracey of Vicksburg, Terrtiana Bonslater of Clinton, Rebecca Moss of Brandon and Rylee Sojourner of Brandon; back, Patrick Partee of Jackson, Terrion Johnson of Vicksburg, Steven Maddox of Brandon and Jaquan Adams of Jackson. They received the Trustmark Scholarship. They are with Sara White, front right.

2025 Miss Dixie National Winners



Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 Miss Dixie National Pageant! The Miss Dixie National Princess winner is Annalise Lavender from Raymond! Miss Dixie National for 2025 is Harley Grace Vinzant from Vicksburg. And the Junior Miss Dixie National winner is Shelby Kate Taylor from Clinton.

Career Days Help MC Students
Engage With Potential Employers,
Grad School Representatives

Mississippi College students looking to get a head start on entering the professional workforce or applying to a graduate program can gain valuable experience by participating in the MC Office of Career Development-sponsored "Career Days" this spring on the Clinton campus.

Career Days help Choctaws on the cusp of the job market present themselves professionally and showcase their skills during employer or advanced education interviews.

Scheduled MC Career Days include:

- An MC Education Fair 2025 from noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, in Alumni Hall. Students and recent graduates of MC's Teachers Education and Leadership Department and students and alumni interested in working with youth can meet representatives of K-12 school districts, nonprofits and other organizations looking to fill full-time, part-time and volunteer positions.
- A Career Expo scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, in Anderson Hall in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. MC students of all majors can meet potential employers from a variety of industries.
- A Healthcare Fair scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in Alumni Hall. MC students can meet potential employers in the healthcare field.

"The career fairs allow students a chance to engage with employers and institutions and learn what avenues they can explore," said Alyssa Bazile, MC director of career development. "Networking provides students with the skills they need to communicate professionally and learn why having a personal brand is important."

"It is imperative that students and alumni understand that first impressions matter and that attending the fairs is a first step to making connections that can change the trajectory of their current and future opportunities."

She said students who are not currently in the market for employment can benefit from attending Career Days events.

"It is perfectly acceptable to inquire about 'shadowing' opportunities or to ask questions about a certain industry from a professional," Bazile said. "Experience does not build itself; students must be proactive. Moreover, Career Days provide community and are a fun way for students to gather and support one another as they work towards a common goal."

Potential employers attending Career Days events are seeking full- or part-time employees, paid and unpaid interns, volunteers, trainees and mentees. Representatives from various graduate schools are looking to recruit students to their institutions.

The Office of Career Development will host several activities throughout the semester to help students prepare for the on-campus fairs and their future job interviews.

- On Thursday, Jan. 30, the office will host a Resume Review, where students can receive a professional critique and valuable tips to boost their CVs.
- The JCPenney department store in Flowood will offer discounts of up to 45 percent on select business attire for the MC family from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2. During the "Suit-up JCPenney event," the store will also give away a \$100 JCPenney gift card.
- On Tuesday, Feb. 4, representatives from Enterprise and the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company will present a "LinkedIn, Job Search and Ask a Recruiter" segment at 3 p.m. in Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall.
- On Thursday, Feb. 13, students can have their resumes and LinkedIn profiles critiqued by professionals at "Resume Critiques."
- On Tuesday, Feb. 17, a pickleball tournament will help students destress before meeting employer and grad school representatives.
- And on Feb. 20, Career Development will be providing free professional headshots for students.

For more information about Career Days, call the Office of Career Development at 601.925.3901.

Career Expo Attendees

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi
- Breakthrough Birmingham
- The Center for Children and Families
- Community Bank
- Community Health Systems
- Continental AG
- C Spire
- D.R. Horton, Inc.
- The Else School of Management at Millsaps College
- Enterprise Mobility
- Forrest Health
- Healthier Mississippi People
- HORNE LLP
- Howard Industries
- Magnolia Federal Credit Union
- The Mississippi College Department of Communication
- The Mississippi College Department of Counseling
- The Mississippi College Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
- The Mississippi College School of Law
- The Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
- Netlink Voice
- Peace Corps
- Region 8 Mental Health
- Ross and Yerger
- The Sunray Companies, LLC
- The University of Mississippi Medical Center
- The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- William Carey University
- Youth Villages

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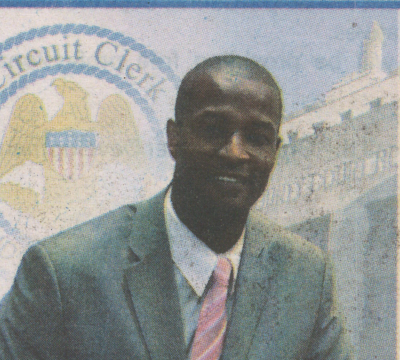
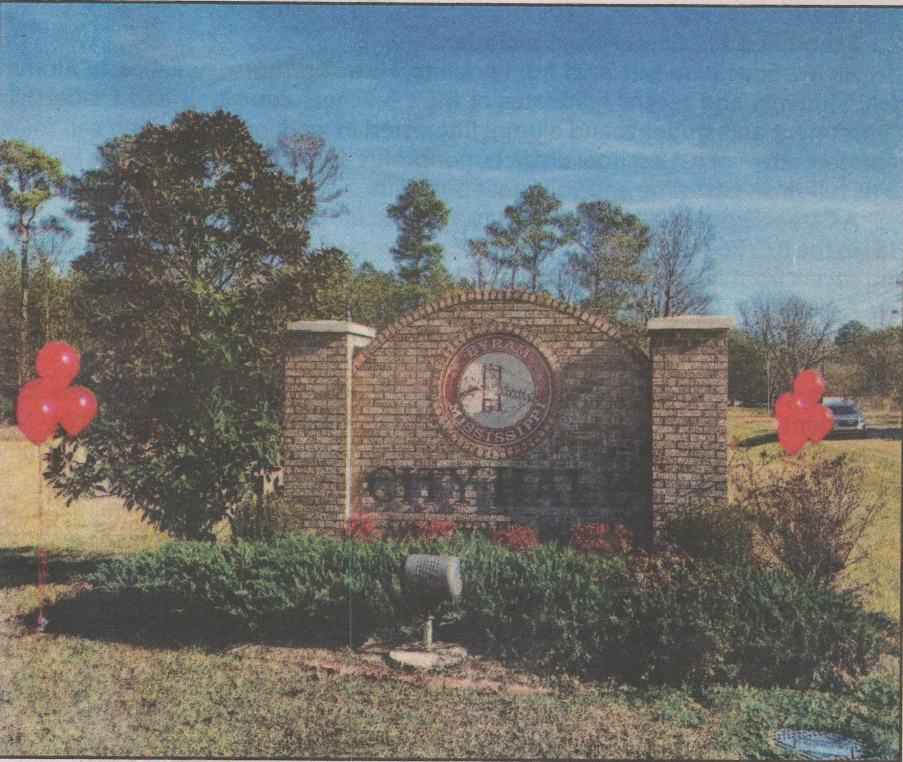
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Byram Mayoral Council's 1st Annual Blood Drive

The "Byram Mayoral Council's 1st Annual Blood Drive" proved to be a successful event, and the "BMHC" would like to express its sincere appreciation to all participants. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who donated blood and helped make this event special by giving the gift of life.



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Website: www.hindscountymississippi.com

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 - Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

- Marriage License: \$36.00
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 - o Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

Rundlett Wins MAGC Parent Award

During the Mississippi Association of Gifted Children Conference, Vicki Rundlett received the Sherrye C. Thompson Parent Advocacy Award for 2024.

Rundlett is the president of Clinton Association of Gifted Children (CAGC), the organization that supports gifted education in Clinton.

Rundlett has been very instrumental in supporting the ACCENT students and teachers in Clinton Public School District.

Gifted teacher Kayla

Quick is serving as president for Mississippi Association of Gifted Children for 2025-2026 and is an ACCENT teacher at Northside Elementary.



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I ♥ Dogs

11 Dog Breeds That Love Their Humans More Than Life Itself

Dogs are famous for their loyalty and love, but some breeds take devotion to another level. These special companions thrive on deep bonds and will stay by your side no matter what. Whether cuddling close, following you from room to room, or greeting you with boundless enthusiasm, these dogs are true champions of affection. If you want a pup that cherishes every moment and adores you unconditionally, these breeds are ready to fill your life with love and unwavering devotion.

Labrador Retriever



Golden Retrievers are the epitome of love and loyalty. These affectionate dogs are always eager to show their humans how much they care, whether through cuddles, playful antics, or a comforting nuzzle. Goldens are incredibly intuitive and have a knack for sensing when their owners need emotional support. Their unwavering devotion and happy-go-lucky attitude brighten any home.

Boxer



Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are small dogs with enormous hearts. These affectionate pups crave human interaction and will happily spend hours snuggled up in your lap. Cavaliers are known for their gentle demeanor and unbreakable bonds with their owners, making them the perfect companion for anyone seeking a dog that's all about love.

German Shepherd



Labrador Retrievers are famous for their gentle, loving nature. They thrive on human interaction and are happiest when they're spending time with their families. Labs are loyal to a fault and will follow you from room to room just to stay close. Their eagerness to please, combined with their affectionate personality, makes them one of the most devoted companions.

Golden Retriever



Boxers are goofy, energetic dogs with hearts full of love for their humans. They are incredibly loyal and protective, always keeping a watchful eye on their families. Despite their muscular build, Boxers are affectionate cuddle bugs who thrive on companionship. Their goofy personalities and boundless affection make them irresistible to anyone lucky enough to be loved by one.

Golden Retriever



German Shepherds are fiercely loyal and devoted to their humans. Known for their protective instincts, these intelligent dogs will go to great lengths to keep their families safe. German Shepherds form deep emotional connections with their owners and thrive on being part of the pack. Their loyalty and dedication make them one of the most dependable companions.

Dachshunds may be small, but their love for their humans is immense. These curious, playful dogs form incredibly strong bonds with their families and are happiest when they're by your side. Whether they're snuggling under blankets or following you around the house, Dachshunds show their affection with every wag of their tail.

Shih Tzu



Chihuahuas may be small, but their love for their humans is enormous. These feisty little dogs are incredibly loyal and love nothing more than being close to their favorite person. Chihuahuas often form strong attachments to one person, becoming their shadow and fiercest protector. Their devotion and playful personalities make them endearing companions.

Pug



Australian Shepherds are known for their high energy and unwavering loyalty. Often referred to as "Velcro dogs," they form incredibly close bonds with their humans, sticking by their side through thick and thin. Aussies thrive on companionship and love being involved in every aspect of their owner's life, whether it's working, playing, or relaxing at home. Their affectionate nature, combined with their intelligence and eagerness to please, makes them one of the most devoted breeds. An Aussie's love is as boundless as their energy, making them a perfect partner for life.

Beagle



Dachshund



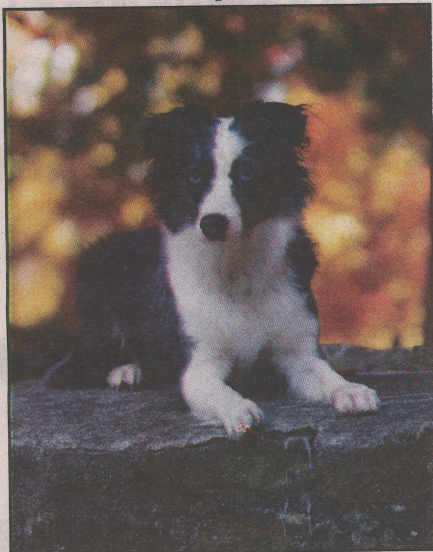
Shih Tzus are lovable, cuddly dogs that adore spending time with their humans. These small, fluffy companions thrive on attention and are happiest when they're being pampered or snuggled. Shih Tzus have a gentle, affectionate nature and will go to great lengths to show their devotion, making them ideal for anyone seeking a lap dog with a big heart.

Chihuahua



Pugs are small, playful dogs with a huge capacity for love. These affectionate companions love nothing more than being by your side, whether you're lounging on the couch or going for a walk. Pugs are known for their expressive faces and charming personalities, which they use to shower their humans with endless love and devotion.

Australian Shepherd



Beagles may have an adventurous spirit, but their love for their humans keeps them coming back for more cuddles. These curious dogs are deeply loyal and form strong bonds with their families. Beagles thrive on companionship and will happily follow their owners on any adventure, proving their devotion through their affectionate and playful nature.

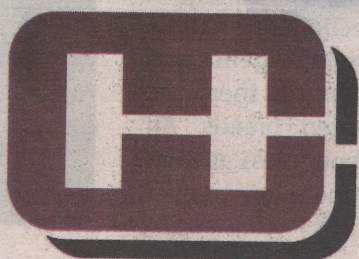
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